from generation to generation

S.P.R.I.N.G 2018
I want to use this opportunity to think broadly about the Jewish Studies Program at the College of Charleston that we have undertaken together. In fact, that may well be the first takeaway of this reflection. We have tried to attend to Jewish Studies’ multiple stakeholders—the College, its students, its staff and its faculty, and always to the community which founded and helped fund the Program at the College. We have always organized Jewish Studies under one umbrella, with strong component parts. I have been fortunate to be its director for many years, responsible for all its dimensions and accountable to all its stakeholders.

The fact that the Program is at the College of Charleston yields a good second takeaway. The academic culture is key to everything the Program does. Jewish Studies encourages and honors diversity of opinion and the free expression of ideas, always demanding the respect and civility that a college environment strives for. Diversity of opinion within the Jewish world is legend—two Jews, three opinions or three synagogues—so it has been a genuine advantage to be able to use that diversity as a benefit.

Jewish Studies is first and foremost an academic program. It teaches a wide array of courses— in Jewish Studies, in the Honors College, and in the First Year Experience Program. By design, the overwhelming majority of our students are not Jewish. Jewish Studies is an interdisciplinary program, with a designated resident faculty, an academic major and minor, travel courses, and centers of instructional excellence. The College’s commitment that the Program’s director be a professor reflects the centrality of the Program’s academic mission.

Jewish Studies has a robust student life program, with weekly free events open to all, including weekly Meet to Eats, Shabbat services and dinners. Over five hundred students were involved in our Jewish Student Union/Hillel events this past semester. Our events are organized by a student board, integrated into the broader student life activities at the College, and have two full-time staff members dedicated to their success, and to the success of Jewish student life at The Citadel. We will coordinate two College of Charleston Birthright trips to Israel this year.

Finally, Jewish Studies has always been disproportionately attentive to community outreach—offering Sunday Morning Brunches, Reading Hebrew, A World of Jewish Culture at Piccolo Spoleto, Chanukah in the Square, the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, and so on. We have never forgotten that the larger community was the impetus for the Program, remains its strongest enthusiasts, and has been its financial backbone, supplementing the significant resources that the College provides.

In fact, Jewish Studies has internalized many of the dimensions of college life; faculty, student life, community engagement, an advisory board, admissions, development, dining, human resources, and even physical plant. In reality, we function as a microcosm of the College. We have hired and developed excellent faculty and staff to address all these dimensions. It is my confidence in these terrific people, all of whom are much younger than I am, that makes me so comfortable with the upcoming transition in leadership.

Fueled by your energy, The College has been a terrific partner in all this. Starting a program, hiring faculty members, building a Jewish Studies Center, establishing centers of excellence in Holocaust Studies and Southern Jewish Culture, offering a Jewish Studies major and minor, and opening a kosher dining hall requires an institution with some heft and many leaders with vision willing to commit to it. No other institution of higher learning in South Carolina has anything like it, and there are very few colleges our size nationwide with such a diverse and robust program. The College deserves our real gratitude.

My enthusiasm for Jewish Studies has also been fueled by your energy. So many of you have embraced what we do in so many different ways. Jewish Studies became my second career because of you. I accepted the directorship as a one-year interim commitment more than twenty-five years ago when there wasn’t much to direct. The ambivalence I have about ‘stepping down’ as director is because I will miss that energy, and the many good friendships that have resulted from it. For that, I am thankful beyond words.

Martin Perlmutter, Director
perlmutterm@cofc.edu
LETTER FROM THE CHAIR
Alan Nussbaum, Chair, Jewish Studies Advisory Board

As I write this report, the Jewish Studies Director Search Committee has just completed our meeting within the last few hours to choose our three top candidates to interview for the position from which Marty Perlmutter will soon be retiring. Five of the committee members, faculty members Shari Rabin, David Slucki, and Josh Shanes, joined by search committee chair Dr. Morgan Koerner, Chairman of the Department of Russian and German Studies, and Loren Ziff representing the Community Advisory Board, returned yesterday from the national meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies in Washington, D.C. There they spent two intense days interviewing potential candidates. We are very excited by the three we have selected to visit the campus in the next few weeks. I am learning that the academic search process is rigorous and that the College's Jewish Studies faculty and staff are quite determined to find a fitting successor for Marty. His role in academics, supporting Jewish student life, and involving the Jewish community of Charleston and South Carolina makes this a unique, very challenging, and quite desirable position.

Jewish Studies has long been a product of and service to the broader Jewish community. In turn, the Program benefits from an increasingly active Advisory Board. In the last 18 months, committees of the Jewish Studies Advisory Board have formed to support efforts of the faculty and staff in admissions, development, Jewish student life, and community outreach. Mark Swick and Helen Slucki continue to do much of the day-to-day work, done in the past by Marty Perlmutter. The presence of Helen, Mark, and long-time Jewish Studies Administrator, Enid Idelsohn promises to make the upcoming transition in leadership much smoother.

Community activities for the Spring 2018 semester will again provide a broad selection of speakers including our own Jewish Studies faculty member Dr. Shari Rabin who will discuss her new book, Jews on the Frontier, Religion and Mobility in Nineteenth-Century America, and Professor Ruth Behar, a native of Havana and a professor in the Anthropology Department at the University of Michigan, who will discuss Jewish life in Cuba in conjunction with the College’s broader Cuba on the Horizon interdisciplinary project during the spring semester. Finally, the annual Kronsberg Lecture will be delivered on February 7—see page 9 for more on that exciting lecture.

As always, members of the Charleston Jewish community continue to audit courses at the College in Jewish Studies as well as in other areas. Happily, our community remains incredibly involved with the life of the College of Charleston Jewish Studies Program. I very much appreciate the efforts of the Program’s Advisory Board members and the participation of a large cross section of the community. With Marty’s retirement, the search for and hiring of a new Jewish Studies director, and a robust program of courses and community programming, there is much to be done and learned in the next few months, and just as much to be celebrated.

MILESTONES IN JEWISH STUDIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Jewish Studies Program is founded by Henry and Sylvia Yaschik</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>African-American Jewish Connection begins at the College of Charleston; ends in 1995</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina is founded by Isadore Lourie</td>
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<td>Jewish Heritage Collection is inaugurated under the leadership of Dale Rosengarten</td>
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<td>Jewish Studies is “co-founded” by Norman J. Arnold</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Sunday Morning Brunch Series begins</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>Milton Kronsberg Memorial Lecture is inaugurated by Freddie Kronsberg</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A World of Jewish Culture at Piccolo Spoleto is initiated to celebrate Israel’s fiftieth anniversary</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jewish Studies Center, Inc. is established to build the Jewish Studies Center</td>
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<td>1999</td>
<td>Jewish Choral Society is established under the direction of Madeline Hershenson</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Reading Hebrew courses are offered to the community by Shula Holtz</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>Sylvia Vlosky Yaschik Jewish Studies Center is completed</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Chanukah in the Square begins in Marion Square Park</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold Distinguished Visiting Chair is established</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies is established</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Jewish Studies Major is approved by the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Pearlstone/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture is established</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Marty’s Place opens in the expanded Jewish Studies Center</td>
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Author Sue Eisenfeld will talk about her work as a travel-history writer, focusing on the research and writing she is undertaking for a new book-in-progress, a journey through six Southern states. Sue Eisenfeld is the author of *Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal* and a contributing author in *The New York Times'* *Disunion: A History of the Civil War*. Her essays and articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and many other newspapers, magazines, and literary journals, and her essays have been listed among the Notable Essays of the Year in *The Best American Essays* in 2009, 2010, 2013, and 2016. She is a five-time Fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and a member of the faculty at the Johns Hopkins University M.A. in Writing and M.A. in Science Writing programs. She will be a Charleston Research Fellow, spending the week of her talk in Charleston conducting research.

**SUNDAY MORNING BRUNCHES**

*Sunday brunches are a hallmark of the Jewish Studies Program. Brunches begin at 9AM and lectures at 10AM. After the talk there will be an interactive discussion in the Rabbi Hirsch Zvi Levin Library with the speaker. All events are free and open to the public. Free parking is available for Sunday morning events (only) in the Wentworth Street Garage. Bring your parking ticket for validation. Childcare is available upon request. Please contact Mark Swick at swickmn@cofc.edu to ensure that we have adequate childcare staffing.*

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**A YANKEE’S JOURNEY THROUGH THE JEWISH SOUTH: A TRAVEL WRITER’S ON-THE-GROUND EXPLORATION OF HISTORY**

**SUE EISENFELD**

Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

Author Sue Eisenfeld will talk about her work as a travel-history writer, focusing on the research and writing she is undertaking for a new book-in-progress, a journey through six Southern states.

Sue Eisenfeld is the author of *Shenandoah: A Story of Conservation and Betrayal* and a contributing author in *The New York Times’s Disunion: A History of the Civil War*. Her essays and articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and many other newspapers, magazines, and literary journals, and her essays have been listed among the Notable Essays of the Year in *The Best American Essays* in 2009, 2010, 2013, and 2016. She is a five-time Fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and a member of the faculty at the Johns Hopkins University M.A. in Writing and M.A. in Science Writing programs. She will be a Charleston Research Fellow, spending the week of her talk in Charleston conducting research.

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**THE BIZARRE TALES OF YIDDISHLAND: WHAT THE YIDDISH PRESS REVEALS ABOUT THE JEWS**

**EDDY PORTNOY**

Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

An underground history of downwardly mobile Jews, *Bad Rabbi: And Other Strange but True Stories from the Yiddish Press*, exposes the seamy underbelly of pre-WWII New York and Warsaw, the two major centers of Yiddish culture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. With true stories of Jewish drunks, thieves, murderers, wrestlers, psychics, and beauty queens, all plucked from the pages of the Yiddish dailies, Eddy Portnoy introduces us to the Jews whose follies and foibles were fodder for urban gossip before winding up at the bottom of bird cages or as wrapping for dead fish.

Eddy Portnoy received his Ph.D. in Modern Jewish Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary and also holds an M.A. in Yiddish Studies from Columbia University. A specialist in Jewish popular culture, he has published in numerous academic journals and also in *The Forward* and in *Tablet Magazine*. He currently serves as Academic Advisor for the Max Weinreich Center and Exhibition Curator at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

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**THE PERILS AND POSSIBILITIES OF WATER IN ISRAEL**

**RACHEL HAVRELOCK**

Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

Water distribution is part of the history of the State of Israel, along with its conflicts. Indeed, the question of water coincided with Jewish national aspirations. Water is necessary for agriculture, and Jewish nationalism initially saw agriculture as essential to its project. All planning on community and state levels looked to acquire the greatest possible stores of water. These acquisitions contributed directly to disputes with neighboring Arab countries, as well as local Arab neighbors. This talk will assess the current water situation in Israel, explain its historical roots, and propose ways in which water management could support a new peace movement.

Rachel Havrelock is Associate Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago and author of *River Jordan: The Mythology of a Dividing Line* (University of Chicago Press). After writing about how the contested borders of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict formed, Rachel became invested in water sharing as an approach to Middle East peacemaking.
THE FASCINATION WITH THE JEWS OF CUBA
RUTH BEHAR
Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

In recent years, the Jews of Cuba have become a source of fascination to numerous travelers who have gone to the island. Why is this community at once so exotic and so endearing to outsiders? As a member of the Jewish Cuban diaspora herself and a longtime scholar of and writer about the community, Ruth Behar will speak about the history and current situation of the Jews of Cuba, and will offer a reflection on the process of writing Lucky Broken Girl, a novel for young readers from the perspective of a Jewish-Cuban immigrant.

Ruth Behar was born in Havana, Cuba and grew up in New York City. She is the Victor Haim Perera Collegiate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan and the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship. A traveler, storyteller, poet, educator, and public speaker, her books include An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IN THE WORLD AND THE JEWISH CONDITION
KENNETH JACOBSON
Sunday, April 22, 2018 at 10:00am in Arnold Hall

The contrast between the tragedy of the Jewish people during the Second World War and the remarkable successes ever since are attributable to several factors. Among the most important is United States leadership in the world. Where does that leadership position now stand and what is its significance going forward for the Jewish people?

Kenneth Jacobson joined the Anti-Defamation League staff in 1972 and currently serves as its Deputy National Director, responsible for overseeing and coordinating the formulation of ADL’s policy and its implementation. Mr. Jacobson is the author of numerous publications, including The Protocols: Myth and History, The Middle East: Questions and Answers, The Middle East ‘Post’ Lebanon, and US Aid to the Middle East: A Look Back, A Look Ahead. By popular demand, Ken returns each April for an informative and engaging presentation.

RABBI DAVID AND BARBARA RADINSKY
Sunday and Monday, February 11—12, 2018
Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center

Rabbi David Radinsky (Sunday, 2:00pm)
The Jewish Religious Response to the Balfour Declaration
On November 2, 1917, the British minister of foreign affairs, Arthur James Balfour, sent a letter to Lord Rothschild, the president of the British Zionist organization, which stated that, “his majesty’s government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object.” Known as the Balfour Declaration, this letter is of extreme importance in Jewish history, for it is the first time in 2500 years that a world power recognized and promoted the Jewish right and claim to the Land of Israel as a Jewish homeland. Rabbi Radinsky will discuss the responses of Jewish religious leaders to the Balfour Declaration, and will explore how it continues to affect us today.

Barbara Radinsky (Monday, 7:00pm)
Is the Story of Esther a Children’s Fairytale?
Barbara Radinsky will explore the hidden messages in the Scroll of Esther and major themes of Jewish survival and interpersonal relationships.

Rabbi David J. Radinsky is a graduate of Yeshiva University and is Rabbi Emeritus of Brith Sholom Beth Israel Congregation (BSBI) in Charleston, having served as its senior rabbi for 34 years. Barbara Cooper Radinsky was born and raised in Brookline, Massachusetts, is a graduate of Stern College for Women and The Citadel, and is Rebbetzin Emerita of BSBI. The Radinskys have retired to Memphis to be close to their family.

A welcome back reception will be held on Sunday at 3:15pm following Rabbi Radinsky’s talk.
MONDAY FILM SERIES:
ORTHODOX JEWS IN AMERICA AND ABROAD
Mondays, January 22, February 26, March 26, and April 16, 2018 at 7:00pm
Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center

With a recent wave of documentaries and feature films about and produced within the ultra-Orthodox community, there has never been a greater opportunity to glimpse inside that characteristically enclosed world. Join the Jewish Studies Program this Spring for a series of four movies focusing on the experience of Orthodox Jews in America and abroad. Held at 7PM in Arnold Hall, screenings are free and open to the public.

PONEVEZH TIME January 22 (2015, 52min)
This film provides an unprecedented glimpse into the largest ultra-orthodox seminary in the world. We discover that amidst the constant prayer and scholarly study are fragile confused young men, with hopes, dreams and worries often not so different from our own.

FILL THE VOID February 26 (2012, 90min)
When the older sister of Shira, an 18-year-old Hasidic Israeli, dies suddenly in childbirth, Shira must decide if she can and should marry her widowed brother-in-law, which also generates tensions within her extended family.

MENASHE March 26 (2017, 82min)
In this heartwarming and fascinating story that gives a first-time glimpse into a notoriously secret community, a loving father fights against tradition in order to keep custody of his only son after his wife passes away.

ONE OF US April 16 (2017, 95min)
In the wake of trauma and abuse, three Hasidic Jews face ostracism, anxiety, and danger as they attempt to leave their ultra-Orthodox community.

BELOVED: CHILDREN OF THE HOLOCAUST
MARY BURKETT
Monday, February 19, 2018 at 7:00pm
Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center

Beloved: Children of the Holocaust is a portrait collection, created in seven months by Mary Burkett, a completely untrained artist using one pastel pencil, Q-tips, and cotton balls. These stunning portraits are a tribute to the more than one million children who perished in the face of institutionalized evil. The portraits stand as a lasting monument, honoring precious lives and reminding us that we are all beloved children of God. Please join us for an exhibit and a very personal talk by the artist, a retired pediatric nurse from Columbia. The portraits will be available for viewing at 6pm followed by the lecture at 7pm.
Throughout history, Jews have responded to dramatic changes in a variety of ways — sometimes through assimilation, and just as often by embracing tradition and ritual. As we look towards the future of the Jewish community broadly, and of Charleston specifically, how might we determine and measure the characteristics of a healthy Jewish community, and what, in particular, should the future of Charleston’s Jewish community look like? How might we create a structure to attract a younger demographic? How might we be more responsive to the older demographic that is being attracted to Charleston? And what is the most pressing need impacting our existing institutions?

Join with Jewish Studies and members of the community as Rabbis Michael Davies (Dor Tikvah), Greg Kanter (KKBE), and Adam Rosenbaum (Emanu-El) discuss these questions and offer their visions for the future of our Jewish community, focusing particularly on the institutions that they represent.

The Three Rabbi Panel is supported by the Stanley and Charlot Karesh Family Fund, an endowment given by the Karesh family in Spring 2015 in support of Jewish Studies’ community outreach programming. Stanley z”l and Charlot have been lifelong pillars of the Charleston Jewish community, and of Jewish Studies. We are incredibly grateful for their support.
In the fateful year, 1979, two thirty-somethings were hired to teach at the College of Charleston, then a quaint old school in a sleepy old port. The city and the College have never been the same. Granted, the transformation of Charleston was driven by a visionary young mayor named Joe Riley, a former Citadel cadet who still looks the part, and the College had already begun raising its academic profile under President Theodore Sanders Stern. But the tasks of bringing the humanities and social sciences up to date and accommodating whole populations left out of the dominant historical narrative fell to Beatrice Stiglitz and Marty Perlmutter. Not to them alone, of course; they were joined by a cadre of distinguished teachers under whom the classroom experience was catching up to and in some cases leaping ahead of the changes expressed in new construction and renovation.

It was an exciting time to disembark in Charleston. Marty had come from teaching philosophy at the University of Tennessee in Nashville, and before that at the University of Texas in Austin. Freshly armed with a PhD from City University of New York, Beatrice came to teach French, and later would offer the first Italian language courses offered at the College, and the first courses focused on the annihilation of Europe’s Jews.

Oh, Beatrice, you always looked like a million dollars, you could turn a dress off the rack at TJ Maxx into a Neiman Marcus look-alike. Beatrice’s youth and teaching career were cut short by cancer, but over a ten-year fight the disease never tarnished her beauty. I remember her modeling clothes for a cancer benefit at a shop on King Street. Complimented on her stunning appearance she theatrically pointed to her breasts, exclaiming, “These aren’t mine, and this isn’t mine, and this—” indicating undisclosed body parts supporting the fine dress. When her hair fell out from the chemo she wore wigs, among them a flaming red wig.

She had a quality Marty calls “gravitas,” a relentless dignity even when she was having fun. Dancing was a passion of hers. “She had two oncologists,” Marty recalls, “and she threw a party and one of the requirements of the party was that her oncologists dance with her. Neither of them was a natural dancer and she made sure they took dance lessons.”

After I took her place in the classroom, she would often ask me, “What is it you are teaching?” She believed, for example, that the songs sung in the ghettos contained a spark of life and renewal and should not be consigned to the archives but performed as living documents. But how could anyone convey the Jewish absence and painful vacancy that greeted her parents when they returned from Russia to Rumania after the Nazi downfall? Through the family’s wanderings Beatrice learned the dialects of the post-war diaspora and became fluent with European literature and romance languages. Yet, she would forever be a child of the Holocaust. “Why is she in Rumania where there are no other Jews?” asks Marty, by way of explanation. “That’s the Holocaust. You can’t tell that without the Holocaust. Why does she leave Rumania? Because she’s not really Rumanian, she’s really Jewish.”

Beatrice left her house on Queen Street to Jewish Studies. She gave money to the College to set up a scholarship for students who want to study in France. The language lab at Addlestone Library is named for her and the “Chats du monde” (a pun on the database WorldCat) displayed next to the library café are hers. These are physical manifestations of her legacy. But how would she want to be remembered? “As a dedicated Jewish teacher,” says Marty. “Even when she was sick she struggled to get to class, she did not want to give up teaching. If there was a program at the College named for her I do not think it would be French Studies, I think it would be Holocaust Studies. That’s what she would want. Because she’s not really Rumanian, she’s really Jewish.”

I remember Beatrice for her high standards and firm opinions. She was a student of history and culture, and I was in awe of all the languages she spoke. She talked a lot and she never used a superfluous word in any language. In her writing and teaching she insisted that Nazism did not come out of nowhere, and the terrible impulses that led men to murder millions of innocent people did not disappear with the defeat of Germany. Laughter in the world after the catastrophe could never be casual or escapist but must come from full awareness. Be aware, be vigilant: something that happened once can happen again. “Judgment Day is not a day,” she was fond of quoting novelist Franz Kafka. “It is a court in perpetual session.”
MEMORY, MONUMENTS, AND MEMORIALS

The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina will meet in Charleston, SC April 28–29, 2018

Monuments, memorials, and historical memory have been much in the news over the last year. In Charlottesville in August 2017, white supremacists rallied to oppose the removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee. The tiki-torch-brandishing crowd paraded through the city chanting, "You will not replace us; Jews will not replace us." These slogans chillingly alerted Jews and African Americans alike that neo-Nazi ideology is once again targeting anyone not considered "white."

With their common histories of racial victimization, Jews and African Americans will use this conference to confront this resurgence together. Join the JHSSC as we partner with the College of Charleston’s Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World, African American Studies Program, and the Charleston branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History for the spring conference in Charleston focused on the history of minority exclusion and white supremacy in South Carolina, the monuments that enshrine public memory, and the ethics of cultural tourism.

On Saturday, our first panel will be titled "Shared Memories; Equal Justice?" followed by two talks about how communities pay homage to loss, or raise high their heroes, in heavily politicized environments. Our keynote lecture will be delivered by Michael Arad, the celebrated Israeli-American architect of the September 11 Memorial in Lower Manhattan, who this past summer was selected to create a permanent memorial at Mother Emanuel AME in Charleston. On Sunday the discussion will address questions of how to present "difficult history" to tourists at both slave labor plantations in the American South and Nazi concentration and death camps in Europe.

THE MILTON AND FREDDIE KRONSBERG MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Stages of Memory: Reflections on Memorial Art, Loss, and the Spaces Between

JAMES YOUNG

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 7:30pm
Stern Center Ballroom (4th floor) at the corner of Glebe and George Streets

In this slide-lecture based on his most recent book, The Stages of Memory: Reflections on Memorial Art, Loss, and the Spaces Between, James Young will trace what he calls an “arc of memorial vernacular” from Maya Lin’s Vietnam Veterans Memorial, to Germany’s Holocaust counter-monuments, to Berlin’s Denkmal for Europe’s Murdered Jews, to the September 11 Memorial in NYC. Of particular interest to Young has been how nations commemorate against the grain of their national legacies, how nations remember their victims and their national shame. The question is pertinent to Charleston today, as the community debates how to address aspects of its past that are shameful to many, and what place figures like John C. Calhoun ought to occupy in the collective memory of the state.

James E. Young is Distinguished University Professor of English and Judaic Studies Emeritus at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he has taught since 1988, and Founding Director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at UMass Amherst. He also chaired the Department of Judaic & Near Eastern Studies between 1998 and 2010, when he founded the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies at UMass Amherst. Young has also taught at New York University as a Dorot Professor of English and Hebrew/Judaic Studies (1984-88), at Bryn Mawr College in the History of Religion, and at the University of Washington, Harvard University, and Princeton University as a visiting professor. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California in 1983.

The 2017 Kronsberg Memorial Lecture will also serve as the official launch of the Arnold Nemirow Fund for Holocaust Studies, which in subsequent semesters will fund student research projects relating to the Holocaust.

The Milton Kronsberg Lecture Series began in the Fall of 1998 as a result of a generous endowment by the Kronsberg family. In the Fall of 2002, the series became the Milton and Freddie Kronsberg Memorial Lecture Series because of the passing of Freddie Kronsberg z”l. The series honors the Kronsbergs’ lifelong commitment to Jewish ideas and values.
The second floor hallway of the Jewish Studies Center has a “memory wall” acknowledging some of those who are no longer with us who made a major difference in bringing Jewish Studies to where it is today. Some lent their names to the program, believed in it, and worked hard for it even before there was much of a program; others participated with leadership and gifts to build the program. Many did both. All were “donors” in the very best sense of the word, giving of themselves effectively and selflessly. Each of them played a major role in enabling me to do my part in directing the program, and to do it joyfully and with confidence, knowing they had my back and would go out on a limb to support Jewish Studies.

(Zechut Avot: the Merit of our Fathers) is at the core of Jewish life – we are deeply indebted to those who helped create the world in which we live and whose values we embrace. (M’dor L’dor: from Generation to Generation) is the Jewish Studies mantra for a reason, and an acknowledgement of the same principle. We are beneficiaries of their legacy and are deeply appreciative for what they have left behind for us to enjoy. Their memory is our blessing.

Solomon “Solly” Breibart
November 8, 1914 - October 31, 2009

Leo Fishman
June 22, 1938 - January 12, 2016

Norman J. Arnold
October 2, 1929 - August 16, 2016

Stanley B. Farbstein
November 11, 1925 - February 23, 2014

Stanley Karesh
October 30, 1921 - October 27, 2012

Stanley H. Feldberg
July 19, 1924 - April 24, 2004

Pincus Kolender
February 8, 1925 - February 29, 2007
THEIR MEMORY IS A BLESSING


Rabbi Theodore S. Levy  April 16, 1926 - November 11, 2004

Senator Isadore “Izzy” Lourie  August 4, 1932 - April 24, 2003

Rabbi William A. Rosenthall  March 8, 1927 - April 30, 2005

Melvin Solomon  April 14, 1919 - April 15, 2009

Barbara Spencer  February 9, 1923 - June 9, 2002

Beatrice Stiglitz  April 24, 1945 - December 17, 2004

Jerry Zucker  August 24, 1949 - April 12, 2008

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Jeri and I visited Berlin, Krakow, and Israel last fall. Without question the highlight of the trip was a day-long visit in the Negev with Dvora Weissbein, formerly Deborah Touboul, a graduate of the College of Charleston in 2000. We toured the Negev, visited with her mom, newly relocated to Mizpeh Ramon, and spent the night with her family in her very small community just north of Arad. Dvora’s life, and her mother’s life, were changed dramatically by a semester abroad at the University of Haifa studying third-semester Hebrew.

I was taken aback and very proud that Jewish Studies at the College has impacted her life and many others so dramatically. I thought it would be informative to have some students share a few of the more transformative journeys occasioned by their experiences at the College.

CATHERINE MUELLER ‘15

I remember it felt like coming home the first time I walked into my freshman seminar, Children and the Holocaust, taught by Dr. Ted Rosengarten. The sense of inclusion and community I experienced in every lecture, special program, or event sponsored by Jewish Studies kept me running back to the corner of Wentworth and Glebe every chance I could.

Ted was, and remains, one of my closest friends and a guiding force in my life. Hearing him teach, helping him facilitate lectures, and traveling with him and his wife, Dale, through Eastern Europe have been the greatest joys of my life.

When I graduated, I sought and received an internship at the Anne Frank House, in Amsterdam. I was preparing, I hoped, for a career as a writer. Human rights would be my subject. It’s been years, but I still carry the business cards of in my wallet of every person I guided through the museum: the Rwandan minister of justice, the CEO of Mitsubishi, and President Obama’s sister, Maya Soetoro-Ng, are all nestled together with my driver’s license and credit card.

I was drawn back to the familiar refuge of Lower King Street and worked in retail for a year, just a few blocks from Jewish Studies, as I looked for the best way to put my passions for human rights and the non-profit sector to use. I visited Ted as often as possible, and attended his lectures whenever I could step away from the shop.

Finally I landed at Blackbaud, the global leader in software for nonprofits, where today I manage accounts for more than 400 clients in the “cause and cure” sector. I work closely with organizations including Children’s Cancer Research Fund, National Park Foundation, and UNICEF, as they evolve to better accomplish their missions using our software.

I wouldn’t have my drive to serve the non-profit sector without Jewish Studies. Here I learned what it means to have empathy—to understand and share the feelings of others, for people in life-threatening and life-restricting situations—and to demand the same from the people around me. Serving non-profits is a highly competitive activity. Jewish Studies showed me a model of conversation and engagement that gives me an edge in this global arena.

ANDREW SPECTOR ‘15

The Jewish Student Union/Hillel at College of Charleston was a home away from home, the cultural and religious hub of my campus life and a catalyst of my leadership development. Having a Jewish community as part of my college experience was an important factor in deciding to attend the College of Charleston. While I had been engaged at my Massachusetts synagogue and enjoyed summers at a URJ overnight camp, it was the JSU/Hillel that empowered me to take the next step to become personally responsible for creating my Jewish community. Through JSU/Hillel leadership roles I learned how to express my Jewish identity by making Jewish ritual more meaningful, through social action, and co-creating a welcoming pluralistic Jewish community.

JSU provided the foundation for my current Jewish experiences in Tulsa, OK. I serve as staff for the Hillel of Northeastern Oklahoma, am a Host for Moishe House Without Walls, and co-founder of a pluralistic leadership fellowship for high school students from different faith and non-faith backgrounds. My Jewish values also drive my work in the broader Tulsa community as co-founder of a youth leadership development and action program for middle and high school students, called Tulsa Changemakers.

M’dor L’dor – from generation to generation. Thank you, Marty, for your vision and leadership in helping to create a vibrant Jewish community for so many generations of students at the College of Charleston.
My story is not the typical narrative among most College of Charleston students. Yet, like many of my peers, I benefitted tremendously thanks to Marty Perlmutter and the College’s Jewish Studies Program. Today, twelve years after moving to Israel, I am the happy mother of three amazing children, Director of Information Management for a terrorism financing private services company, and Chairman of my tiny town’s city hall. The wonderful people I met at the College of Charleston contributed greatly to my journey up to this day.

Born and raised in Paris, I moved to Charleston at seventeen years old. Upon arriving at CoC, I started by studying subjects I was personally related to: Middle East Politics and Hebrew. This is how I met John Creed and Marty Perlmutter. Their encouragement led me to major in Political Science and minor in Jewish Studies, and Israel became my point of focus both academically and experientially. Creed taught me about Israeli politics while Perlmutter sent me to the University of Haifa for a full semester—my very first opportunity to visit Israel. I spent six months there learning Hebrew, studying, working and experiencing the country—its various landscapes and ways of living. Little did I know that one day I would come back, build my own home there, and contribute to the building of a new local community.

I returned to Charleston for my last semester, applied to graduate schools, and was accepted to George Washington University for a Master’s degree in International Affairs. I arrived in DC shortly before September 11. That day’s terrible events together with an interest I had for International Security and Computer Science led me to focus on Cyberterrorism. After completing my Master’s degree, I had the privilege of staying in DC for another two years working at The World Bank; I had no intention to leave. Until, at the occasion of a trip to Israel for a friend’s wedding (which I had met during my CoC semester abroad), I realized that there, I felt home. From that moment, moving to Israel felt like the logical continuation of my journey, combining both my academic orientation and my personal identity as a Jew. Six months later, on the day of my twenty-fifth birthday, I was on a one-way flight to Tel Aviv.

Today I can say that the Jewish Studies Program, and Marty Perlmutter specifically, changed my life by pointing it to what I feel was the right direction for me. It is such a pleasure to see how, exactly twenty years after I came to know the Program, it has contributed significantly to the lives of so many students other than myself. I will never be thankful enough. Marty, may your retirement be as successful as your career at CoC!
ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS

HBRW 102.01 CRN 20723  
Nitsa Dagan-Auerbach  
Elementary Modern Hebrew  
MWF 10:00-10:50am and W 9:00-9:50am  
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)

An introduction of fundamental language structures with emphasis on acquisition of basic language skills: reading and listening comprehension, oral and written expression, including speaking. Prerequisite: HBRW 101.

HBRW 202.01 CRN 20724  
Nitsa Dagan-Auerbach  
Intermediate Modern Hebrew  
MWF 11:00-11:50am and W 12:00-12:50pm  
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)

The object of this course is the development of basic proficiency through practice in the use of basic language skills emphasized in previous courses, and the acquisition of new vocabulary. Prerequisite: HBRW 201.

JWST 210.01 CRN 21662  
Shari Rabin  
Jewish History I: Ancient to Modern  
T, Th 12:15-1:30pm  
Jewish Studies Center, NEW LOCATION: JSC 233

A survey of the social, economic, religious and political experience of the Jewish people in the pre-modern world (from its biblical origins through 1700). The course begins its focus just before the destruction of the second Temple (70 C.E.), and continues through the medieval period - paying equal attention to the Jewish experience in the Christian and Muslim worlds - and ends in the seventeenth century, in northwestern Europe, where the transformations of Jewish life in the modern era were already beginning.

JWST 300.01 CRN 22306  
David Slucki  
Special Topic: After the Holocaust  
MW 2:00–3:15pm  
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)

This course examines the impact of the Holocaust on Jews and on the world. Beginning in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust, it will explore efforts to attain justice in the decades following World War II, and at the various ways the Holocaust has come to be remembered. It will then look at the impact of the Holocaust on Jewish communities worldwide, and will finally consider contemporary issues that Jews face, particularly in light of the ongoing effects of the Holocaust’s trauma.

JWST 300.02 CRN 22307  
Shari Rabin  
Special Topic: Religion and US Immigration History  
MW 3:30–4:45pm  
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)

The United States has been praised as a nation of immigrants, and is among the most religiously diverse countries in the world. At the same time, both anti-immigration sentiment and religious bigotry have been persistent themes in American history. This course will explore intersections of immigration and religion from the nineteenth century to the present day. We will discuss how religion has affected American perceptions of and policies toward immigrants, how immigrant religious communities have adapted to the American environment, and how second-generation Americans have represented their religious communities in literature and film.

ATTENTION: SENIOR CITIZENS

YOU MAY REGISTER FOR SPRING 2018 CLASSES ON JANUARY 17-18, 2018

In-person registration will be held at 65 George Street (Admissions Office)  
Call 853.953.5620 for your appointment

South Carolina residents who are over 60 years old are eligible to enroll in regular College of Charleston courses on a space-available basis for a fee of $50 per semester. Permission of the instructor is required for Jewish Studies courses.
FOOD & FAITH II
FEASTING AND FASTING: A DIALOGUE BETWEEN MUSLIMS AND JEWS
Monday, January 29, 2018, 6:30–8:30pm
Arnold Hall, Jewish Studies Center

Please join Muslim and Jewish students and community members for an informal conversation about cultural and religious points of contact. The event will begin with a conversation between Rabbi Michael Davies, local Orthodox Rabbi, and Imam Abdel Majid, Charleston Imam, moderated by Elijah Siegler, professor of Religious Studies at the College of Charleston. Enjoy samples of traditional Jewish foods and dishes from the Muslim world as the panel discusses commonalities between the Jewish and Muslim calendar (Festivals and Fast Days.)

Following the moderated conversation, attendees will form breakout groups and discuss issues beyond food, including Jewish and Muslim prayer practices, pilgrimage, clothing, scripture, and charity. All are welcome to attend.

Co-sponsored by the College of Charleston Department of Religious Studies, the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program, Jewish Student Union/Hillel, CofC Arabic Club, Christian-Jewish Council of Greater Charleston, and the Charleston JCC Without Walls.

ACADEMIC COURSE OFFERINGS .....continued

JWST 300.03 CRN 22308
Ted Rosengarten
Zucker/Goldberg Chair of Holocaust Studies
Special Topic: Nazi Medicine
Mondays 5:30-8:00pm
Jewish Studies Center, NEW LOCATION: JSC 233

This course explores the biomedical vision at the heart of Nazi thought: the program of “human selection” that sought to remake the demography of Europe by placing the “health” of the state over the individual; the “cleansing” of the German medical profession; so-called medical experimentation as a tool of political and social conquest; and the pursuit of personal gain over the exercise of medical ethics.

JWST325.01 CRN 23349
Joshua Shanes
Jewish Mysticism
T, Th 9:25–10:40am
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)

Jewish mysticism is an exhilarating branch of Judaism that reads holy texts in amazing ways to answer fundamental questions of life, including the nature of God and the universe, the nature of human souls, and how we can affect our connections to each other and to God. It teaches the cosmic impact of each and every person. This class will study the major forms of Jewish mysticism (Kabbalah) and especially its modern expression in the Hasidic movement.

JWST330.01 CRN 22310
Ted Rosengarten
Zucker/Goldberg Chair of Holocaust Studies
Representations of the Holocaust
Tuesdays 5:30-8:00pm
Jewish Studies Center, Levin Library (Room 210)

Despite historical inaccuracies, artistic deficiencies, and commercial motivations, documentary and dramatic films about the killing of the Jews and other groups deemed by the Nazis as “unworthy of life” continue to impress the Holocaust into popular consciousness. Novels and short stories, museum exhibitions and public memorials, works of fine art and site-specific art shape conventional ways of thinking about this tragic past. This class will probe issues in Holocaust representation, Hollywood and the Holocaust, the entertainment value of mass murder, voyeurism and atrocity, memory and mourning. We will analyze what happened to Jews and non-Jews—gypsies, homosexuals, communists, trade unionists, defiant Christians, individuals with disabilities—through artistic representations of Hitler’s “final solution.”
THE POWER OF GIVING
Mark Swick, Community Liaison

As I enter my sixth year with the Jewish Studies Program, it is powerful for me to hear from friends, alumni, and community members who were with the Program in its earliest days – those who remember life before a Jewish Studies Center, without an academic major or minor in Jewish Studies, and very few Jewish students on campus to speak of, to say nothing of a Jewish Student Union/Hillel. Just over three decades later, it is inspiring to think about how far we have come, and humbling to consider the many generous individuals who brought us to this point.

Jewish Studies programs are unusual in the academic world in that they are often the product of donors with a vision. The impetus for them is often the external community, and much less so alumni of a given college. So too at the College of Charleston. Our program bears the names - and legacies - of Henry and Sylvia Yaschik, and Norman and Gerry Sue Arnold. Neither family had any natural connection to the College. Over the years, the Yaschiks and Arnolds have been joined by dozens of others who have left lasting legacies because they saw value in the courses we offer, the programming we provide, and the sense of community we strive to create.

Just as the Program has grown in remarkable ways, we are not at all prepared to rest on our laurels. Opportunities remain for the Program to mature yet further. In the coming months and year, we hope to secure funding for a Center for Israel Studies to complement the Program’s Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture and the Zucker/Goldberg Center for Holocaust Studies. We also recognize that successful organizations invest in their team members, so securing funds for Faculty/Staff Enhancement is a real priority. Finally, the costs associated with attending college – especially for out of state students – have never been higher. Scholarships go a long way towards alleviating that burden, and with the College of Charleston committed to matching scholarships in Jewish Studies, the value of endowing a scholarship could not be greater.

The faculty and staff of the Jewish Studies Program hold ourselves to a high standard, and as a result we do not shy away from soliciting support from the community that has brought us to this point. If you would like to learn more about development and naming opportunities, the Life and Legacy program, or making a planned gift to Jewish Studies, please contact Mark Swick at swickmn@cofc.edu

Thank you to those individuals who through an endowment or planned gift have ensured that the Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program will remain vibrant long into the future. If your name was not included in error, please accept our apologies, and do not hesitate to let me know.

Anonymous (9) *
Ami Abramson *
Marlene Addlestone *
Norman z”l & Gerry Sue Arnold +
David & Esther Beckmann *
Jaclyn Berlinsky *
Donald & Barbara Bernstein *
Daniel & Ellie Billen +
Gabriel & Elisa Bluestein *
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Leo & Helen Reese z”l +
Herbert Rosner +
Mindelle Seltzer +
Sam & Gina Shapiro +
Harold “Buzzy” Sherman z”l +
Howard & Leighanne Sherman +
Ivan Sherman *
Sigmund Schildcrout +
Zipporah Solomons z”l +
Raymond & Florence Stern z”l +
Louis Tick *
Henry & Sylvia Yaschik z”l +
Mindelle & Loren Ziff *
Jerry z”l & Anita Zucker +*

* Planned Gift
+ Endowment
This Fall the Center treated Charleston to Jenna Weissman Joselit’s eloquent meditation on the Ten Commandments in the American South and to Jeffrey Rosen’s stimulating interpretation of the legacy of Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis, including verbatim quotations from the great jurist without a note in sight!

In October, as part of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina’s Fall meeting, the Center’s Associate Director Dale Rosengarten presented a moving slide lecture about the Jews of Georgetown, SC, and the next week offered a workshop at Addlestone Library on her sabbatical research, “First Person Singular: Memoirs from the Jewish South.”

In early November, Dale and I attended the Southern Jewish Historical Society annual meeting in Cincinnati, for which I served as program co-chair. Looking ahead, we are composing an application for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to underwrite an innovative 2019 summer course for college teachers on the intersection of southern Jewish history and the history of the South.

On January 18, we will inaugurate the spring semester with a celebration of Jews on the Frontier: Religion and Mobility in Nineteenth Century America—my first book, published in December 2017—and a new study of black Catholics by our colleague Matt Cressler. Please mark your calendars and see page 7 for more information.

Work on our digital exhibitions continues apace. Mapping Jewish Charleston will offer a digital “stroll” through sites that shaped the city’s Jewish past, and project, through new photography by Jack Alterman, places and faces that will shape its future. Synagogues of the South, based on postcards from the William A. Rosenthall Judaica Collection, will showcase the architecture and congregational history of Jewish houses of worship across the region.

The community will have an opportunity to hear from both of our spring research fellows: Journalist Sue Eisenfeld will describe her current project, “A Yankee’s Journey Through the Jewish South,” on Sunday, January 21, and University of Virginia graduate student Brian Neumann will talk about his research on the Nullification Crisis of the 1830s at a brown bag lunch on Wednesday, March 7. The following week, on March 14, Professor Michael R. Cohen, chair of Jewish Studies at Tulane University and author of the new book Cotton Capitalists: American Jewish Entrepreneurship in the Reconstruction Era, will give a talk that sets the stage for a major conference titled “Freedoms Gained and Lost: Reinterpreting Reconstruction in the Atlantic World,” hosted by the College’s Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World program.

Please sign up for our email list for reminders and other news at: jewishsouth.cofc.edu/contact-us/email-list

"The Devil Was a Nullifier": Religious and Political Crisis during the Nullification Revival, 1828-1835
Wednesday, March 7 at 12:30pm, Arnold Hall

Charleston Research Fellow Brian Neumann, currently a PhD candidate in history at the University of Virginia, will present on his research about the Nullification Crisis, in which South Carolina tried to void federal tariffs. The crisis coincided with the Second Great Awakening, and it became a struggle over faith and freedom, testing South Carolinians’ belief in the Union’s providential purpose. Neumann’s research in Charleston will focus on understanding the spiritual dimensions of this event, including the reactions of the State’s important Jewish community.

After Appomattox: Reconstruction and America’s Jews
Wednesday, March 14 at 7:00pm, Addlestone Library Room 227

The end of the Civil War initiated a period of dramatic hope, disappointment, and transformation in the American South and the nation as a whole. Featuring Michael R. Cohen, professor at Tulane University and author of Cotton Capitalists: American Jewish Entrepreneurship in the Reconstruction Era, this talk will focus on how Jews responded to the new economic and political realities of the Reconstruction era. It will kick off three days of events on the history of Reconstruction, including a major conference sponsored by the College’s Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World Program.
MOVING FORWARD
Helen Slucki
Associate Director of Admissions and Executive Director, Jewish Student Union/Hillel

In our last newsletter, I wrote about the summer having been a time of transition at the JSU/Hillel. The theme this semester has been one of forward motion. It has been a joy to support Amanda and Pamela as they settle into their roles, each making the position their own while hitting the ground running. You can read more about the work Amanda and Pamela have been doing in the following articles.

There has also been a strong forward moving energy in the Office of Admissions. We offered a binding early decision round for the first time this year, with applicants in this round receiving their decisions on December 1. This pushed the early action deadline back and those candidates will be receiving their decision on January 15. I am really excited about another strong applicant pool-- and am eager to see all of these wonderful prospective students on campus next fall.

The College continues to be extremely supportive of our work to recruit Jewish students. The College’s Provost, Brian McGee, was the keynote at the meeting of the Jewish special interest group of high school counselors at the National Association for College Admission Counseling’s annual conference this year in Boston. It was the first time the group had been addressed by a campus provost, and they were extremely impressed with the level of support Jewish students receive at the College.

Our Jewish Student Recruitment Interns, Ben Kanter and Jamie Lief, have been working on creating a stronger social media presence among prospective Jewish students, showcasing the various academic courses, clubs and organizations that Jewish students engage with on this campus. You can follow their Instagram page @cofc_jwsh_life

All in all it has been an exciting and extremely productive semester, and I am looking forward to sharing the outcomes of our efforts in the next newsletter.

CROSS CAMPUS COLLABORATION
Amanda Genovese
Jewish Student Union/Hillel Program Director

This school year, one of our focuses at JSU/Hillel is meeting students where they are and exploring other parts of their identity. Our students are a multitalented and passionate group: Jewish and dancers, Jewish and sustainability advocates, Jewish and racial justice proponents, Jewish and in Greek life, Jewish and athletes, and so much more. We want our students to be able to bring Judaism with them wherever they go, on campus, in the Charleston community, and in their communities in the future.

I’m thrilled that our students have decided to partner with so many groups on campus for meaningful and influential programming. So far in this short semester, we have enjoyed continued partnership with the Religious Life Exchange, a place where real Interfaith work is constantly taking place and evolving at the College. In addition, we have renewed partnerships with the Office of Institutional Diversity and Multicultural Students and Programs, including planning a Martin Luther King, Jr. week on campus that is a tribute to Dr. King’s ability to pull Interfaith groups together to lovingly address racial justice and equity. Also, our student leaders have formed relationships with student leaders from the Black Student Union and have partnered with them at the Black Student Union-JSU/Hillel mixer, to volunteer at the Carolina Youth Development Center, and the Daffodil Project, in which members from the Race and Social Justice Initiative were able to speak about injustices in our community today, in relation to the Holocaust. Jewish students also learned from a partnership with the Center for Civic Engagement for a “Dinner in the Global Village,” modeled on a Hunger Banquet, along with a speaker who has experienced hunger and homelessness as a College of Charleston student.

We hope to continue to strengthen these already existing partnerships, as well as continually forming new cross-campus relationships. We already have a student-led initiative in the works to make dinners at Hillel zero-waste, in collaboration with the Office of Sustainability and in line with the Quality Enhancement Plan.

I’m incredibly excited for the future and can’t wait to see what students will dream up next semester.
As the Engagement Associate, most of my time is spent at the College of Charleston’s JSU/Hillel, meeting with students over coffee and helping with the events put on by the student board. However, every Monday evening I have the pleasure of attending The Citadel's Hillel meetings as the Jewish Student Life Coordinator for The Citadel.

This past semester I worked closely with the The Citadel Hillel President, Cadet Josh Ganezer, to understand the needs of Jewish cadets at The Citadel. From these discussions, we identified the need to shift to a more student-driven model. Cadet Ganezer and I introduced the position of a Discussion Leader, someone who would be in charge of bringing a new discussion topic each meeting relating to Judaism. Senior Cadet Charles Einstein eagerly took on this role and led discussions around Jewish identity as well as Jewish humor this past semester. This structure has promoted a positive Jewish learning environment where cadets can relax and freely express their opinions with their Jewish peers.

As in years past, once a month, College of Charleston students visit The Citadel Hillel and eat a dinner together provided by members of the Charleston Jewish Community. I would like to again thank Colonel Paul and Patricia Sykes, the KKBE Sisterhood, and the KKBE Brotherhood for providing dinners this semester.

In addition to weekly student-led discussions and community dinners, the cadets have had the opportunity to celebrate various Jewish holidays. This has come in many forms, from attending services at local synagogues for High Holy Days, Shabbat at The College of Charleston, or even an early Hanukkah Party at The Citadel. All of these opportunities for cadets coupled with their consistent attendance and engagement truly show that Jewish student life at The Citadel is thriving.

If you are interested in providing a dinner to the Jewish cadets or would like to speak about a Jewish topic you are passionate about at a meeting, please contact me at partridgepr@cofc.edu.

PASSING THE TORCH
Michelle Myers
Jewish Student Union/Hillel Outgoing President

I am writing my final newsletter as the Jewish Student Union/Hillel president. The JSU has been a defining feature of my time at school, and I am forever grateful for the friends and memories that I have made during my time spent with this organization.

From the very start of my first year at school, at the Welcome Back Cookout, I felt welcomed and at home with Hillel. I regularly attended student-led Shabbat services through my freshman year, and enjoyed the feeling of familiarity and tradition that came with reciting the Shabbat prayers with my peers. My first student leadership opportunity with Hillel came my sophomore year, when I began to plan and lead services and programs as the Religious Chair.

Over time, I came to love working on the student board with my friends at JSU, and participating in the behind-the-scenes action that went into planning the events that our organization held. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as the Jewish Student Union/Hillel President for the past calendar year, and I am beyond grateful to have had this opportunity for student leadership. As I go into my final semester at the College and prepare for post-graduate life, I will remember this time as one that defined my college experience.

Though I will always lovingly remember this time of my life, I am happy to be passing the torch to our wonderful new president and vice president, Samantha Krantz and Izzy Dubrow. Both Samantha and Izzy are incredibly warm and welcoming students who love our Hillel and constantly dedicate their time and effort to make it the best it can be.

I am so proud of our entire student board this semester, a few of whom are first year students, who have planned many creative and fun events for Jewish students at the College to enjoy. A few of my favorites this semester have been the Charleston Ghost Tour alternative Shabbat celebration, our ongoing Challah for Hunger bake and braid programming, and the Israel-themed Meet-to-Eat dinner featuring Israeli cuisine and activities.
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